

OPENA Accomplishments of 2018!

The Oak Park Estates Neighborhood had an exciting and productive year in 2018 with a significant number of accomplishments! Here are the highlights of what we accomplished together last year:

1. During 2018 year, OPENA had 61 paid memberships. Our funds rose from \$212.38 at the beginning of 2018 to \$ 1,524.98 by the end of the year!
2. OPENA held 6 general meetings in 2018 including our Holiday Party in November. Attendance was up to 70 persons at the September meeting! At these meetings, the Association provided substantial programs during the year including
 - a. January - A program on 311 by Faye Williams
 - b. May - An Overview of City Services provided by the City of Dallas by Joseph Yanez
 - c. July - Protecting Trees in Oak Cliff by Philip Erwin
 - d. Sept. - A History of the Oak Cliff Pocket Neighborhoods by David Klempin
3. Under the leadership of Past President Lucy Livingston, OPENA set up a strong committee structure and appointed chairpersons for the following Committees: Membership, Technology, Government Liaison, Bylaws, Social, Block Captains, Grants and Resources, Courtesy, Nominating, Programs, Executive Airport and Education.
4. The Association held four official board meetings in 2018 that included both the elected officers and the committee chairs. The board make effective use of this time to plan our events and activities to ensure OPENA was effectively addressing the needs of the residents of Oak Park Estates and Druid Hills.
5. The Association actively engaged civic leaders to participate in our meetings and awarded Honorary Memberships to State Rep. Yvonne David and Dallas County Sheriff Marian Brown.
6. OPENA raised funds to donate 30 school uniforms and backpacks for students of the JW Carpenter Elementary School. The uniforms were presented at the start of the new school year!
7. OPENA participated in the City of Dallas Beautification Day on May 19 with approximately 12 volunteers who picked up trash along Rugged Dr. between Kiest and Ledbetter and in the vacant lot at the intersection of Vatican and Hampton.
8. OPENA conducted a neighborhood survey using the Survey Monkey tool in June/July timeframe to secure resident feedback on our programs and to help OPENA plan future activities.
9. OPENA organized with 4 other Neighborhood Associations and Heritage Oak Cliff to sponsor two Candidate Forums for the candidates vying for the District 4 council seat. The attendance at the October forum was 150 and the attendance at the November debate for the runoff was 200!
10. OPENA participated in the City of Dallas Reforestation Day in November and Association members planted three new trees in resident yards as part of this event.

11. OPENA held three social events in 2018 including a Networking Social at the Executive Airport in June, a Holiday Party at the Dallas Public Library in November and a New Year's Social for the Officers and Committee Chairs at the home of Judy Pollock in December.
12. OPENA organized a Bylaws Committee and presented a major rewrite of the bylaws to the membership in December for a vote by the membership at the General Meeting in January. In the Bylaws, OPENA adopts a mission statement for the Association ***“to serve as a forum and an active support group for the residents of the Oak Park Estates and Druid Hills neighborhoods in order to make the area a safer, more attractive and a better place to live.”***